



# OZAUKEE COUNTY PLANNING AND PARKS DEPARTMENT



IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON THE GREAT LAKES ECOSYSTEM –  
A NOAA SCIENCE NEEDS ASSESSMENT WORKSHOP TO MEET EMERGING  
CHALLENGES

***OZAUKEE COUNTY, A COASTAL COMMUNITY CASE STUDY:  
POTENTIAL IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON WATER-BASED  
RECREATION AND TOURISM***

**JULY 29 - 31, 2008**

**ANDREW T. STRUCK, DIRECTOR – PLANNING AND PARKS DEPT**

SCHOOL OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT  
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN – CENTRAL CAMPUS  
ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN



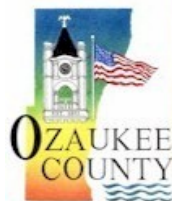
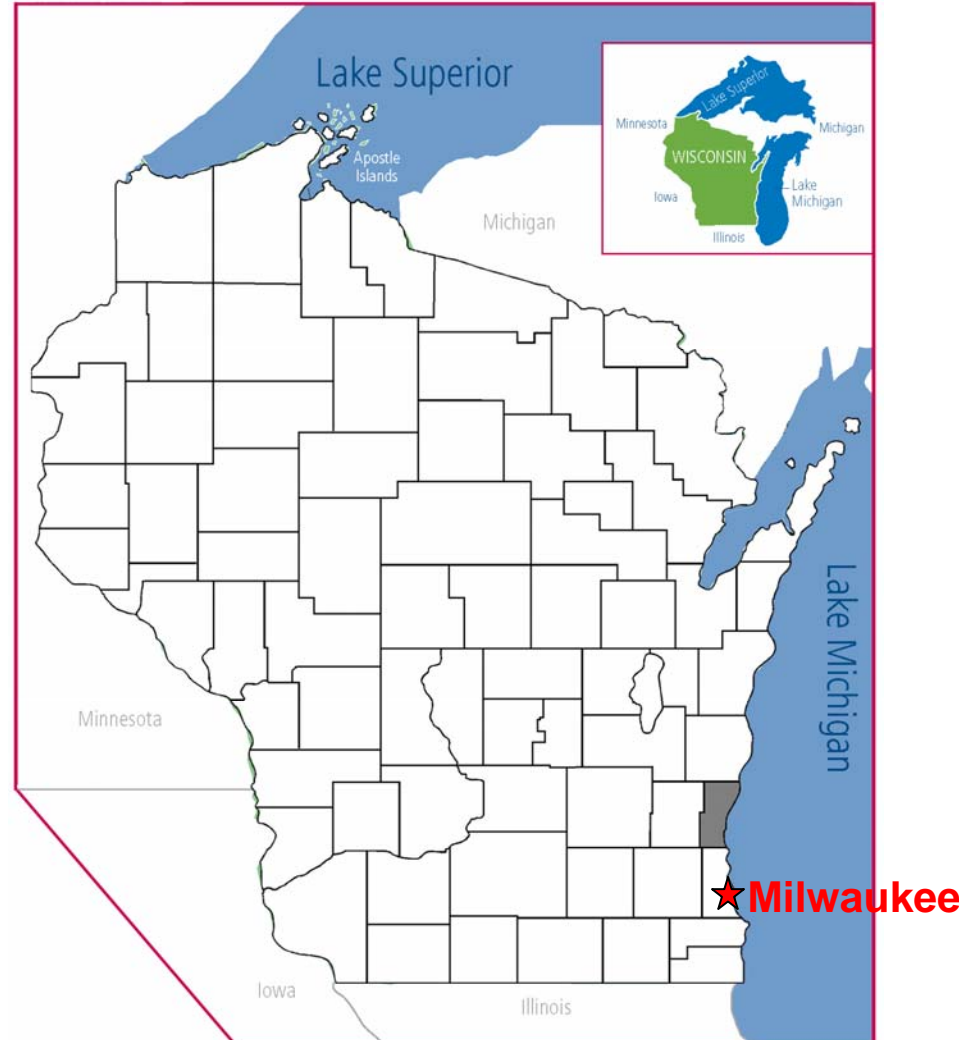
# **OZAUKEE COUNTY PLANNING AND PARKS DEPARTMENT**



## ***OZAUKEE COUNTY, A COASTAL COMMUNITY CASE STUDY: POTENTIAL IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON WATER-BASED RECREATION AND TOURISM***

- **PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT – COASTAL EROSION**
- **SEASONAL PRECIPITATION AND FREQUENCY OF RAINFALL – FLOODING**
  - **WATER QUANTITY – LAKE LEVELS – HARBOR ACCESS / BOATING**
    - **WATER QUALITY – STORMWATER INPUTS**
  - **HUMAN HEALTH – BEACH CLOSURES AND ALGAL BLOOMS**
- **FISH RECRUITMENT AND PRODUCTIVITY – CHARTER FISHING INDUSTRY  
AND FISH IMPEDIMENTS**

# PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

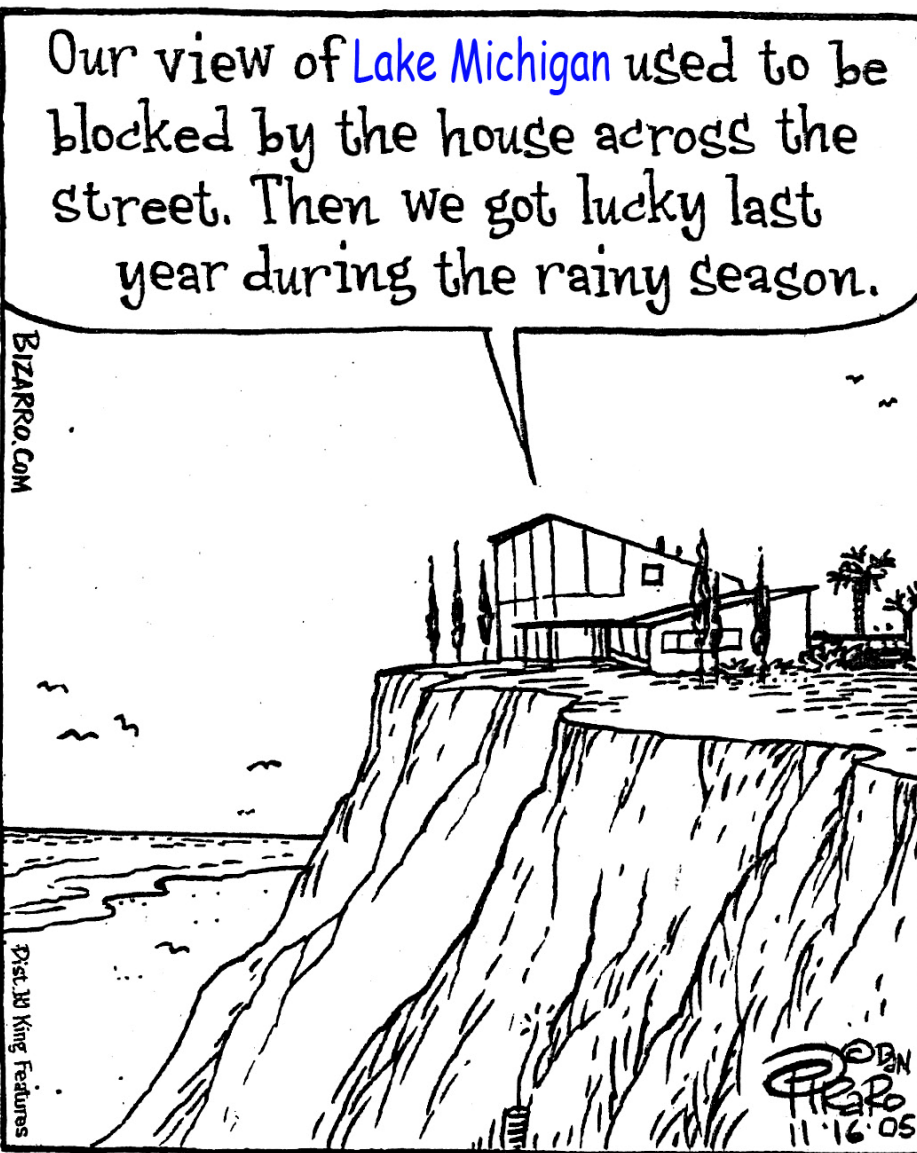


# PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT – COASTAL EROSION



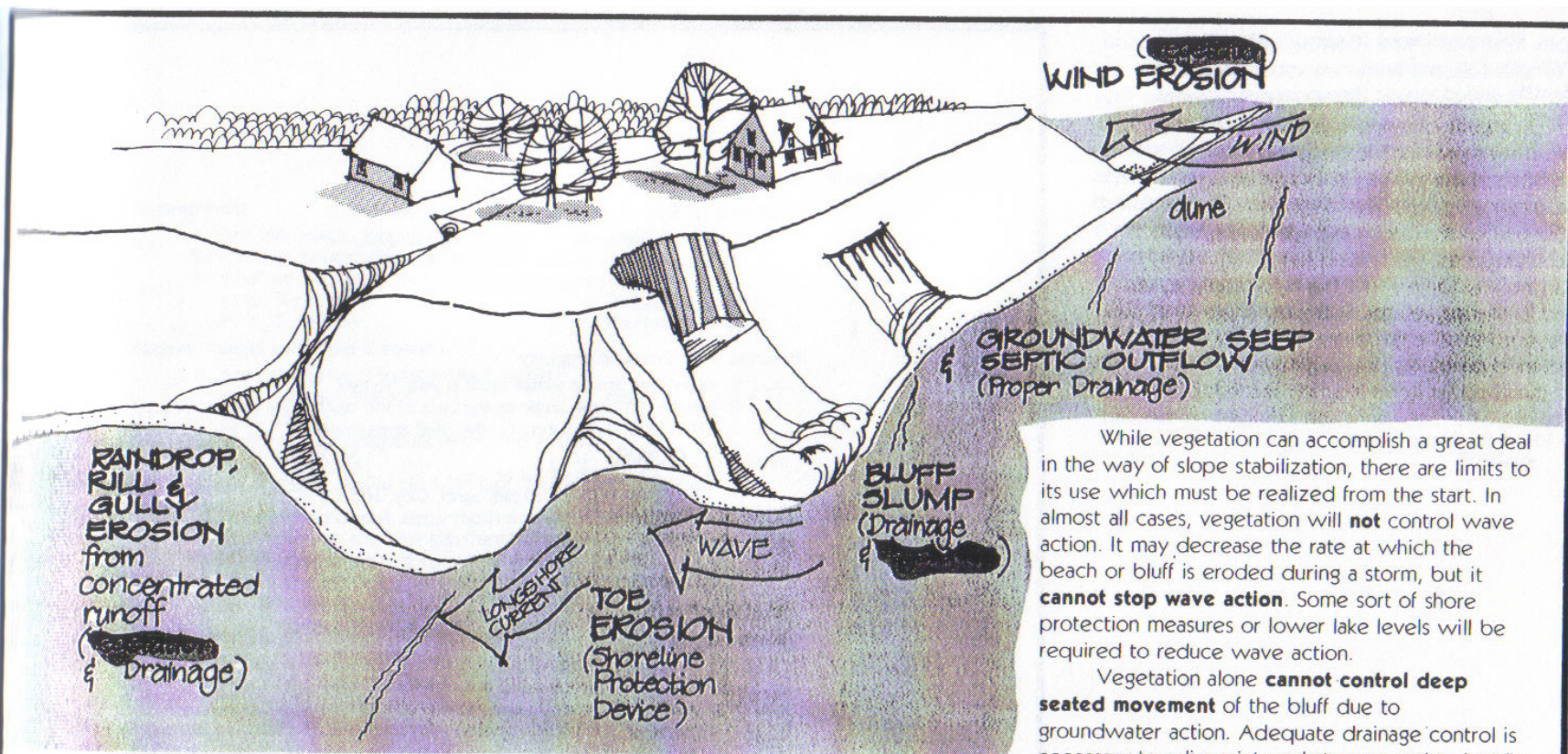
**BIZARRO**

Dan Piraro





# PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT – COASTAL EROSION



While vegetation can accomplish a great deal in the way of slope stabilization, there are limits to its use which must be realized from the start. In almost all cases, vegetation will **not** control wave action. It may decrease the rate at which the beach or bluff is eroded during a storm, but it **cannot stop wave action**. Some sort of shore protection measures or lower lake levels will be required to reduce wave action.

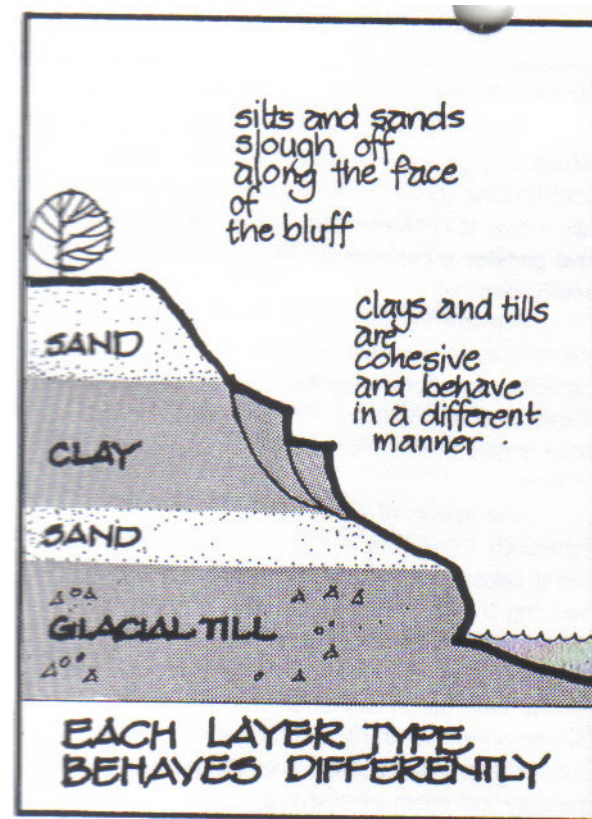
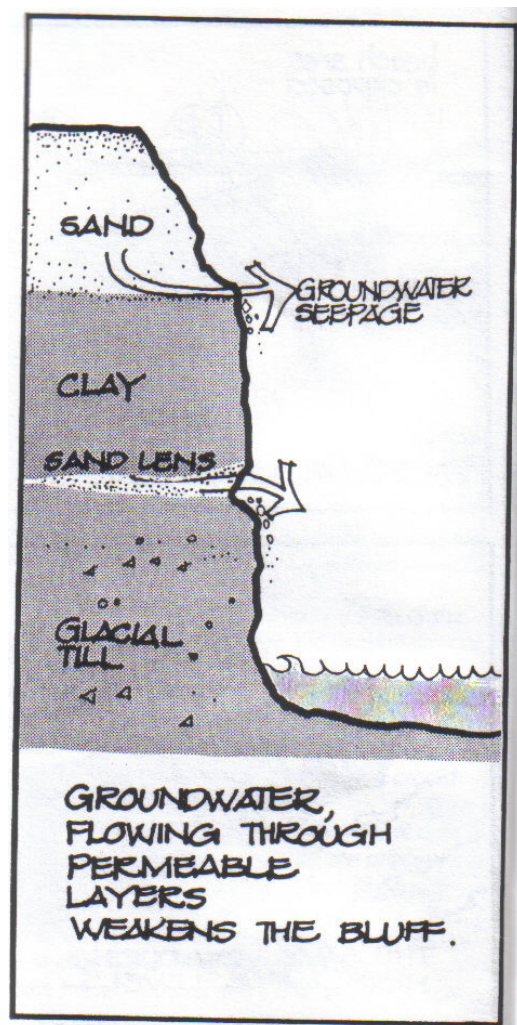
Vegetation alone **cannot control deep seated movement** of the bluff due to groundwater action. Adequate drainage control is necessary to relieve internal stresses and to handle large volumes of surface runoff during storms.

The accompanying diagram summarizes the forces and processes acting on the shoreline area and identifies those which vegetation may control or reduce, and those for which drainage controls and shore protection structures may be required.

**EROSION PROBLEMS**  
and some possible solutions



# PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT – COASTAL EROSION

























2/22/2006



3/20/2006





2/22/2006



3/20/2006



1/27/2006



3/20/2006





















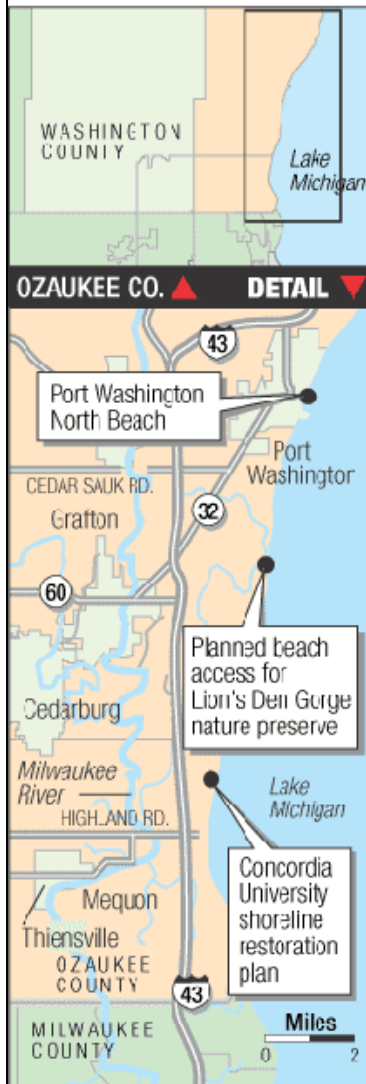




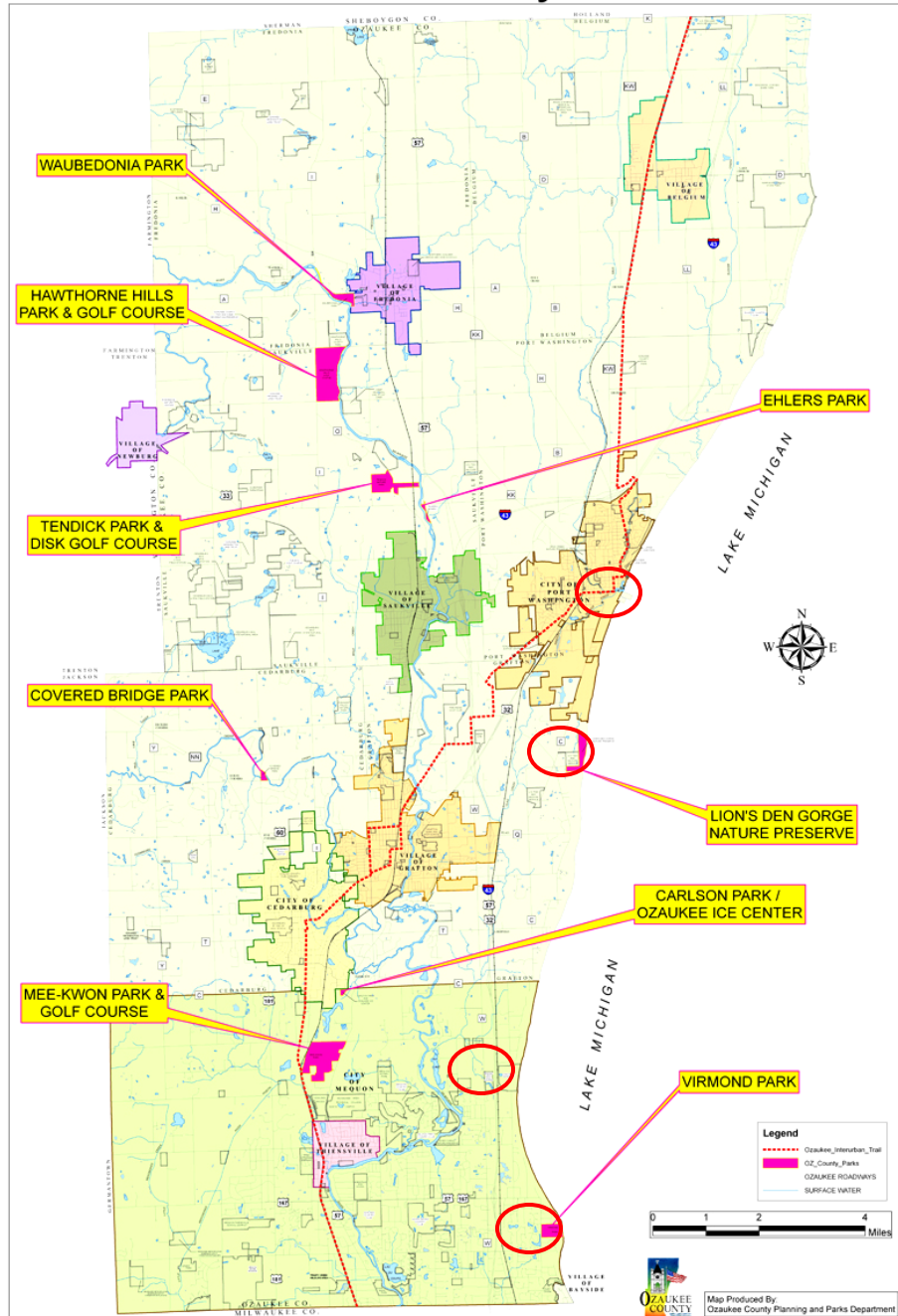


## LAKE ACCESS GETTING TO THE WATER

Efforts are underway to improve public access to the Lake Michigan shoreline at three locations in Ozaukee County. At least one of the projects could be completed by winter and another project might be completed as early as summer 2006.



## Ozaukee County Parks





# PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT – COASTAL EROSION

## UPPER LAKE PARK BEACH – PORT WASHINGTON





# PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT – COASTAL EROSION

## VIRMOND PARK – OZAUKEE COUNTY





# PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT – COASTAL EROSION

## LION'S DEN GORGE – OZAUKEE COUNTY



### Possible parkland

Ozaukee County has been given the opportunity to purchase some of the last remaining open lakeshore land between Milwaukee and Port Washington for use as a park. The site, known as Lions Den Gorge, is 20 acres.



Source: Ozaukee County Land Conservation Department. JOHN PINCHARD Journal Sentinel



### PROJECT LION'S DEN GORGE NATURE PRESERVE

Ozaukee County crews completed building stairs along the Lake Michigan bluff in the Lion's Den Gorge nature preserve.



RIKA KANAOKA/rkanaoka@journalsentinel.com









# PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT – COASTAL EROSION

## LION'S DEN GORGE – OZAUKEE COUNTY



Boardwalk / Wetland Viewing Platform



Grass *GeoBlock* Permeable Parking Lot



Stairs / Bridge / Lake Access



Trails & Lake Michigan Bluff Viewing Area – Handicap Accessible





# NEWS GRAPHIC

OZAUKEE COUNTY'S NEWSPAPER SINCE 1883

## Making the grade



Photo by Deb Kranitz

Crews continue to work on the \$8 million bluff stabilization project at Concordia University. Officials expect it to be completed by the time students return to the campus this fall.

## 'We've made terrific progress'

By Ann Brownfield  
News Graphic Correspondent

**Mequon** — The construction phase of an \$8 million bluff stabilization project at Concordia University is well advanced, according to Duane Hilgendorf, Concordia University vice president for campus planning and development.

including wild flowers and prairie grass remains to be done this fall.

Concordia University students will have limited access to the bluff area during the construction phase, but are expected to return to the campus this fall.

one hour before sunrise until 1 hour after sunset. Permits will be issued by the University Relations office, according to Duane Hilgendorf. Concordia University vice president for campus planning and development.



Photo by Deb Kranitz

The bluff project will include coastal wetland areas fed by lake water and perched wetland areas fed by ground-water seeps which will be channeled to them.

## Bluff: Completion eyed for fall

### Continued from Page 1

tion we are interested in the teaching and learning opportunities (that will arise from this project). The university has added a graduate program in environmental education and a bachelor's degree in environmental studies," he added.

Both new programs will make use of the opportunities for study afforded by the project.

Both Ferry and Hilgendorf are also pleased to be able to provide an important community resource, particularly to local schools.

"We envision grade school students able to learn from our students, who will be the resident experts, about aquatics, wetlands and ecosystems," Ferry said.

In addition, he noted that the property lies within major migratory patterns for various species of birds and butterflies, making it an attractive site for study by local residents. "This is really the first time we've been able to take advantage of our location and our half-mile of lakefront property and the recreational, as well as educational, opportunities," he added.

Ferry acknowledged that many years of planning have gone into the project.

"Our board made an effort in 2000 to address the bluff and the erosion as a priority capital item," he explained. "It was daunting at that time to consider all the permits, engineering plans, property acquisition and raising the funds to cover the project."

To date, Concordia has been able to secure enough funding, much of it through donations, to cover the cost of the bluff stabilization project, characterized by Ferry as only a part of a much broader capital plan for the campus.

Acreage acquired by the university just across Highland Road to the south of the campus has been used as a staging ground for equipment and materials for the project, and is part of the university's long term plan, but will not be utilized in the immediate future once the bluff stabilization project is complete, he said.

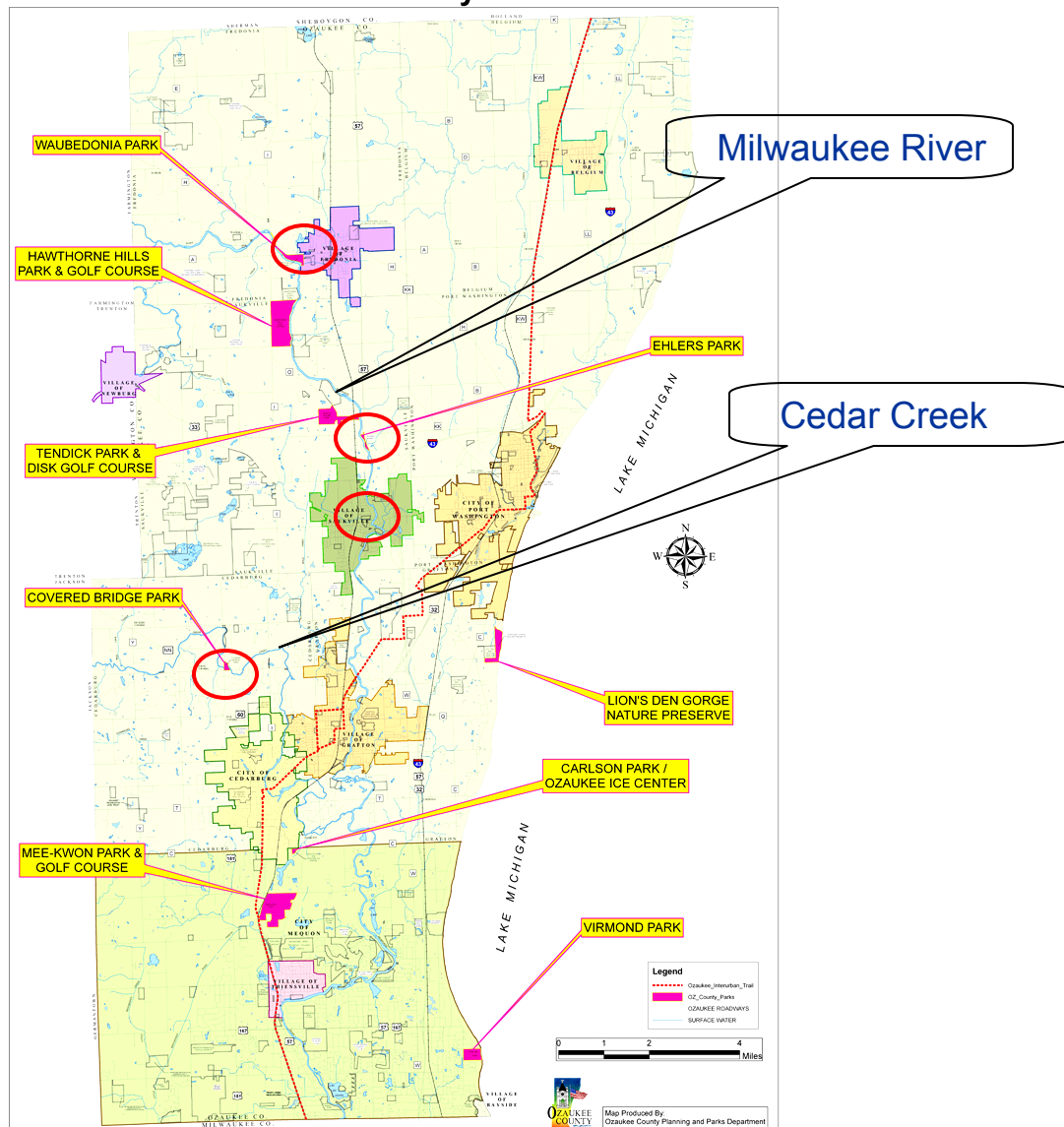
The university is also seeking donations to fund an Environmental Education Center to house classrooms, lecture facilities and state-of-the-art laboratories.



# SEASONAL PRECIPITATION AND FREQUENCY OF RAINFALL – FLOODING



**Ozaukee County Parks**

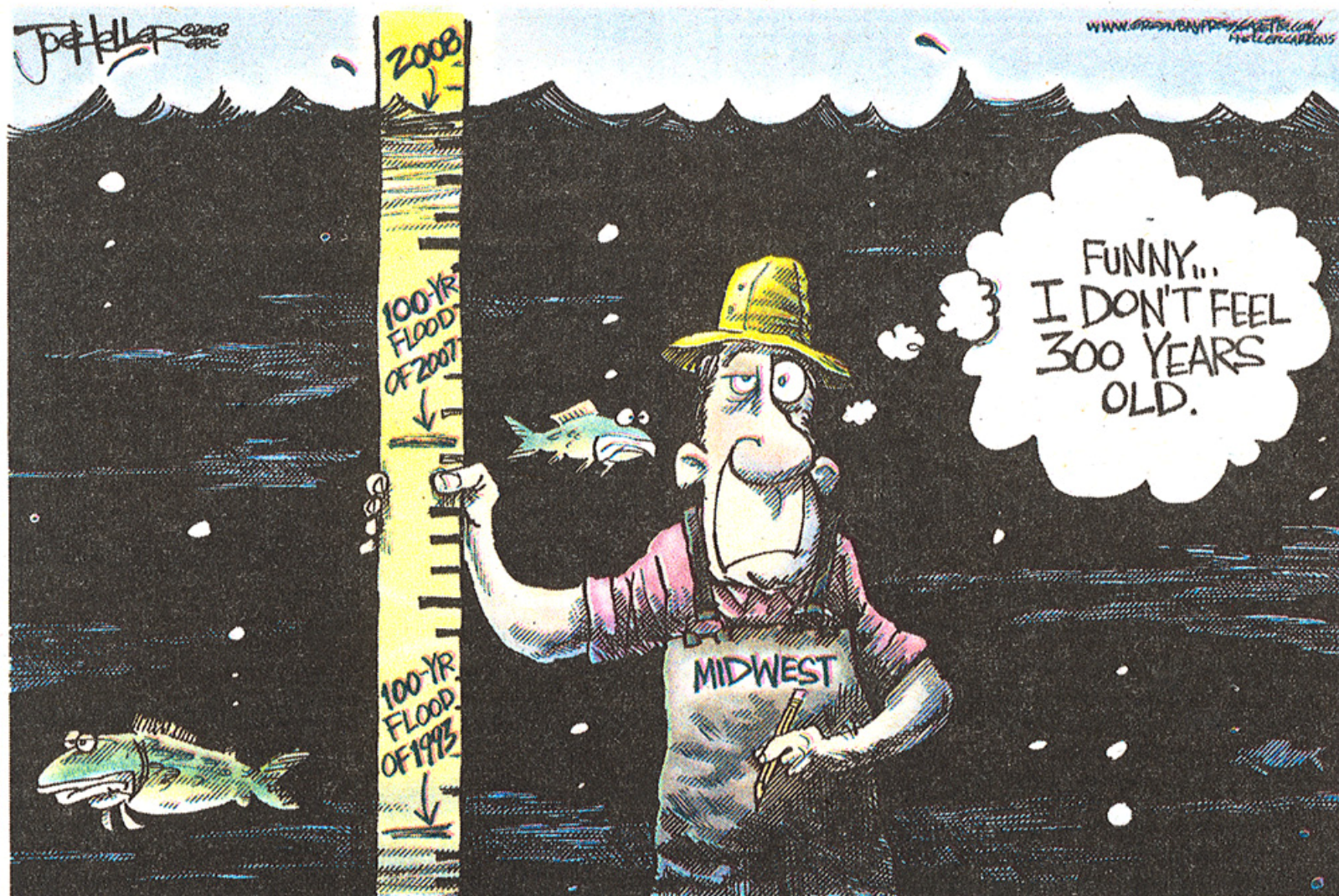




# SEASONAL PRECIPITATION AND FREQUENCY OF RAINFALL – FLOODING



OZAUKEE PRESS THURSDAY, JUNE 26, 2008 **3A**



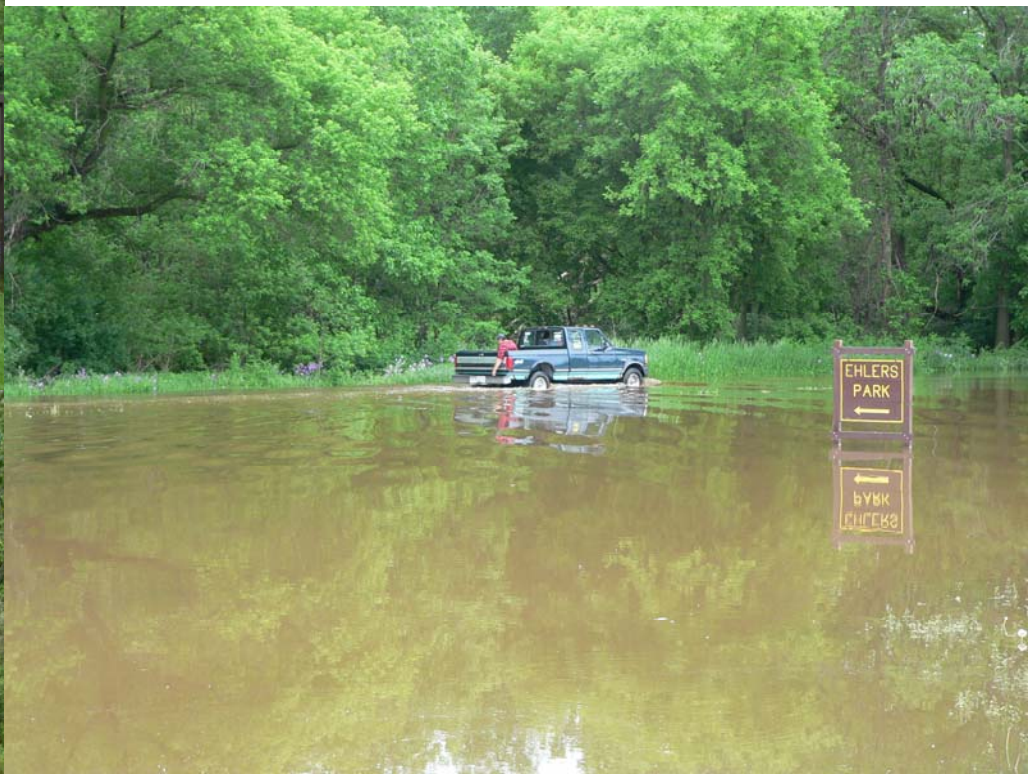


# SEASONAL PRECIPITATION AND FREQUENCY OF RAINFALL – FLOODING





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# SEASONAL PRECIPITATION AND FREQUENCY OF RAINFALL – FLOODING





# SEASONAL PRECIPITATION AND FREQUENCY OF RAINFALL – FLOODING





BEFORE



AFTER





# WATER QUANTITY – LAKE LEVELS AND HARBOR ACCESS / BOATING / FISHING PORT WASHINGTON HARBOR









N. Port Beach & Port Wash. Harbor  
Depth Sounding Results - 6/15/2007  
Contour Map (1 foot) of  
Near-shore Lake Bottom







# **WATER QUANTITY – LAKE LEVELS AND HARBOR ACCESS / BOATING / FISHING**



## **IMPACT OF THE CHARTER FISHING INDUSTRY – PORT WASHINGTON**

- 31 Total Charter Boats
- Dock fees paid to City Marina by Charter Boat owners \$68,850 / year
- Charter fishing season spans five months – May through September
- 2,588 Trips and 12,842 People Fishing in 2007
- Approximately 42% were non-resident in 2007
- The total number of hotel room rentals - approximately 2,400 annually
- Impact to area restaurants is approximately \$400,000 annually
- Impact to other area business – the Charter Fleet purchased 49,294 gallons of fuel (\$166,558) in 2007

*Source: Port Washington Charter Association Economic Impact Study (2008)*





## **WATER QUALITY – STORMWATER INPUTS**

# Comprehensive Sanitary Survey of Upper Lake Park Beach

Summer 2007  
(May 28<sup>th</sup> – September 3<sup>rd</sup>)

City of Port Washington  
Ozaukee County Planning and Parks  
Ozaukee County Public Health Department



# Valley Creek Outfall



Photographed  
by: Justin Hall

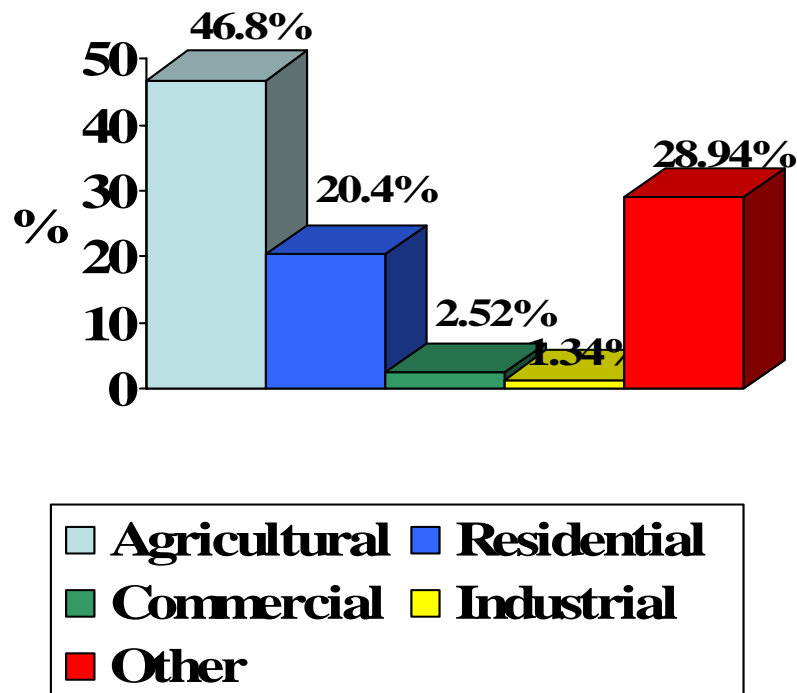


# Valley Creek Outfall

- Average Flows
  - June 0.377 MGD
  - July 1.10 MGD
  - August 4.21 MGD
- Peak Flow
  - August 22<sup>nd</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup>
  - 27.2 MGD

MGD = million gal per day

**Watershed Land Use**





# Sauk Creek

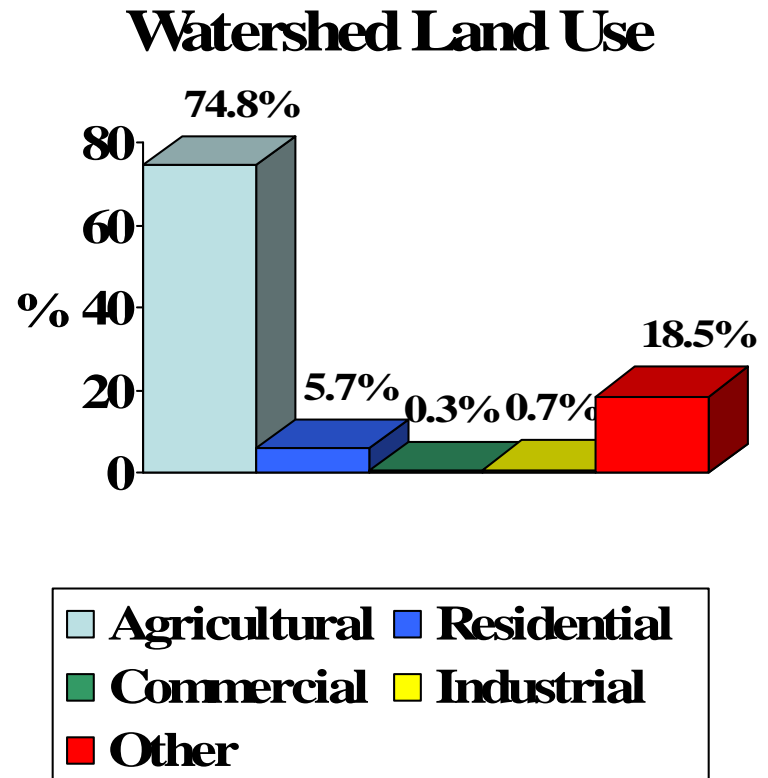






# Sauk Creek

- Average Flow
  - June 3.19 MGD
  - July 10.43 MGD
  - August 34.92 MGD
- Peak Flow
  - August 20<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup>
  - 168.4 MGD





# HUMAN HEALTH – BEACH CLOSURES AND ALGAL BLOOMS



Advisory / Yellow  
 $\geq 235 < 1000$  CFU / 100mL

Closure / Red  
 $\geq 1000$  CFU / 100mL

## CAUTION: WATER QUALITY ADVISORY



### FOR YOUR SAFETY

- Swim at your own risk
- Do not ingest lake water
- Shower after swimming
- Wash hands before eating
- Do not swim if you are ill

*Increased risk of illness may be present  
Based on recent monitoring for E. coli bacteria*

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

(262) 268-7725

[www.wibeaches.us](http://www.wibeaches.us)

## STOP CLOSED



*Based on recent monitoring for E. coli bacteria  
Serious risk of illness may be present*

### THIS AREA IS CLOSED TO SWIMMING

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

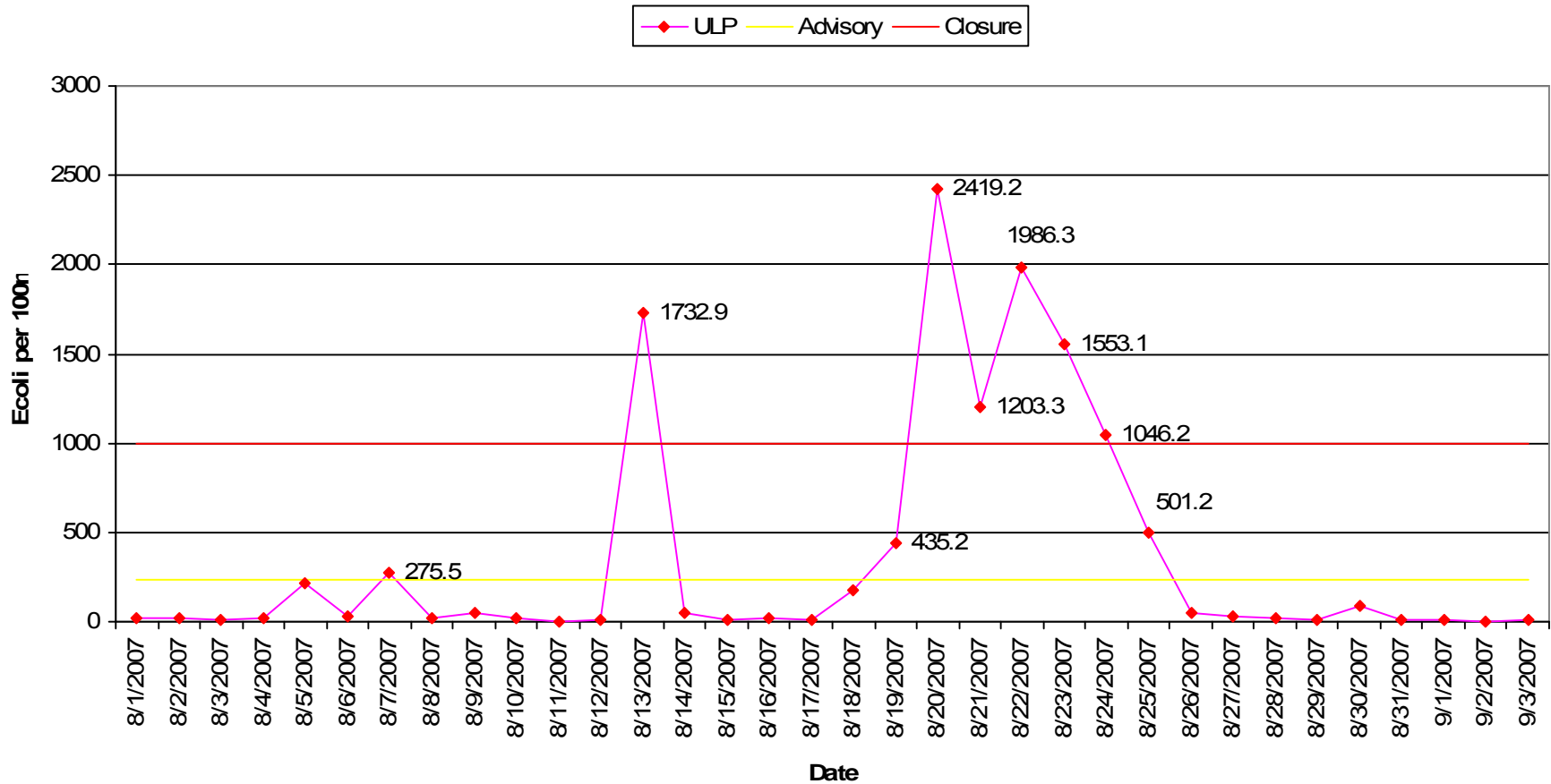
(262) 268-7725

[www.wibeaches.us](http://www.wibeaches.us)





# Aug-Sept E.coli Levels Upper Lake Park







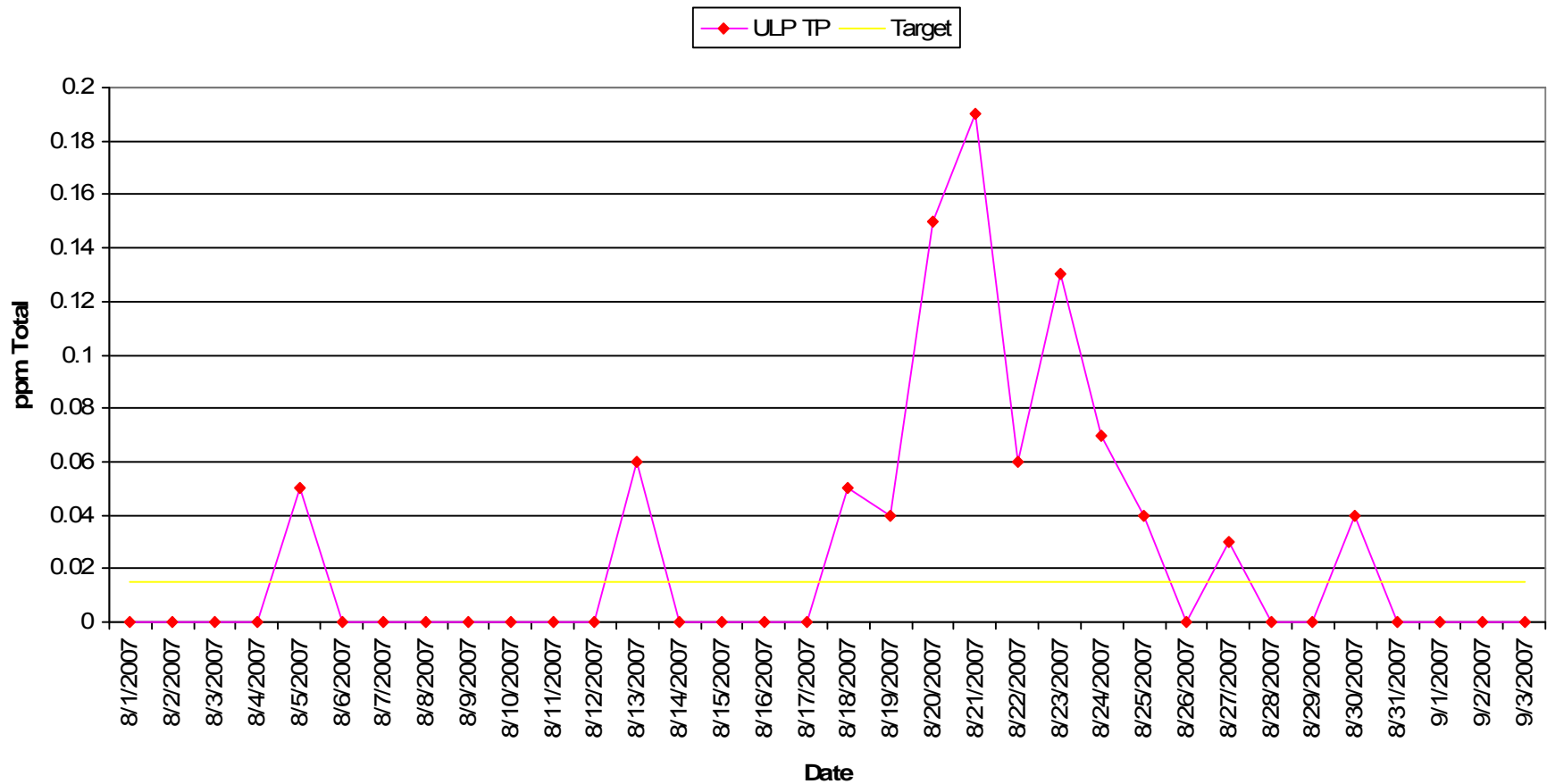
# Upper Lake Park 2007 Advisory Summary

- 12 closure advisories
  - All closures were rain related
    - Aug 20th –Aug 25<sup>th</sup> 8 inches of rain fell during 6 day period
    - Huge volumes of storm water where measured
- 2 cautionary advisories
  - Each advisory occurred after a brief rain event
- 3 preemptive advisories
  - Storm water conditions created turbid beachwater
  - Raining during field sampling





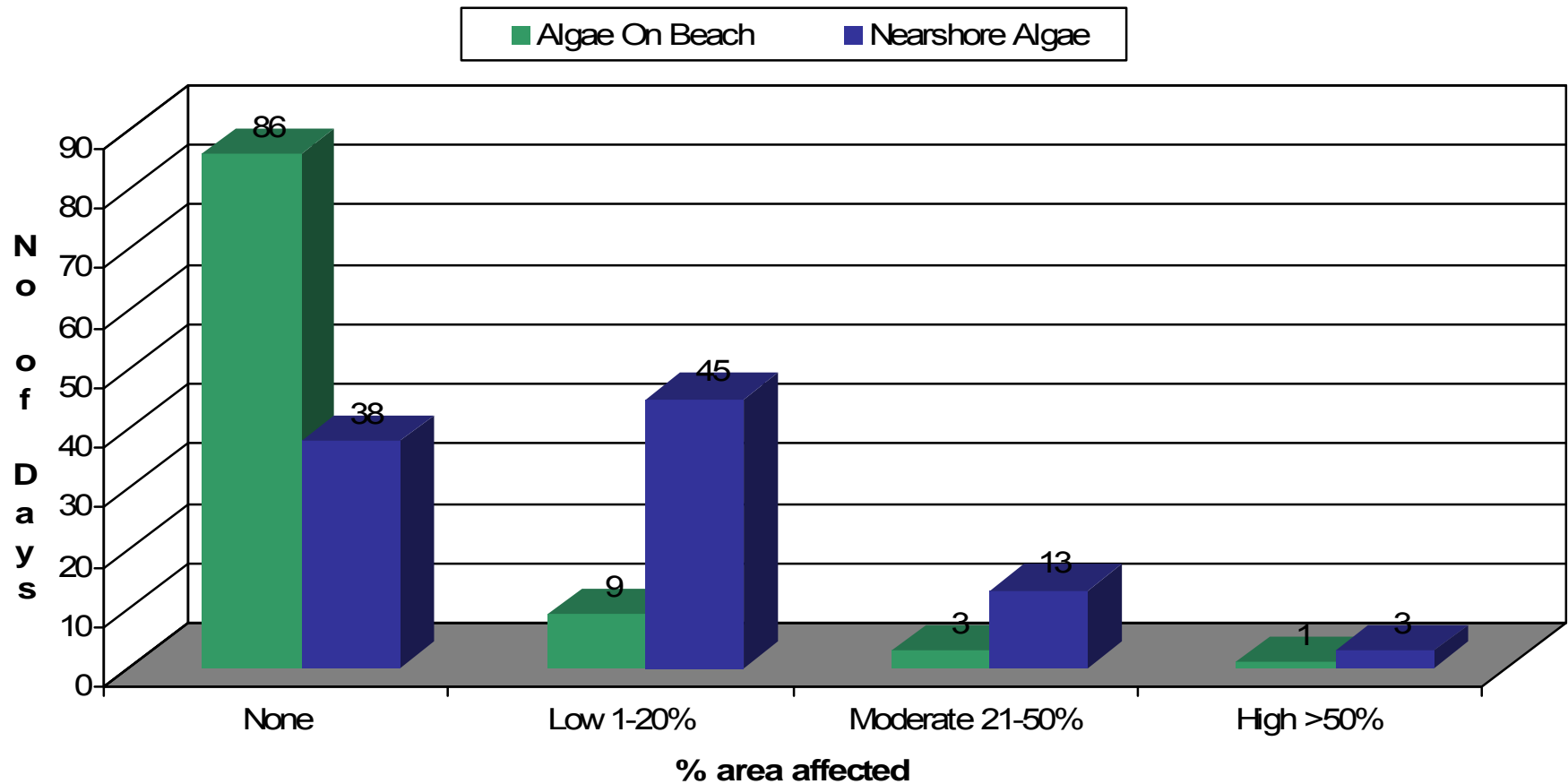
# Aug-Sept Total P Concentrations Upper Lake Park







# 2007 Algae Impacts on Upper Lake Park





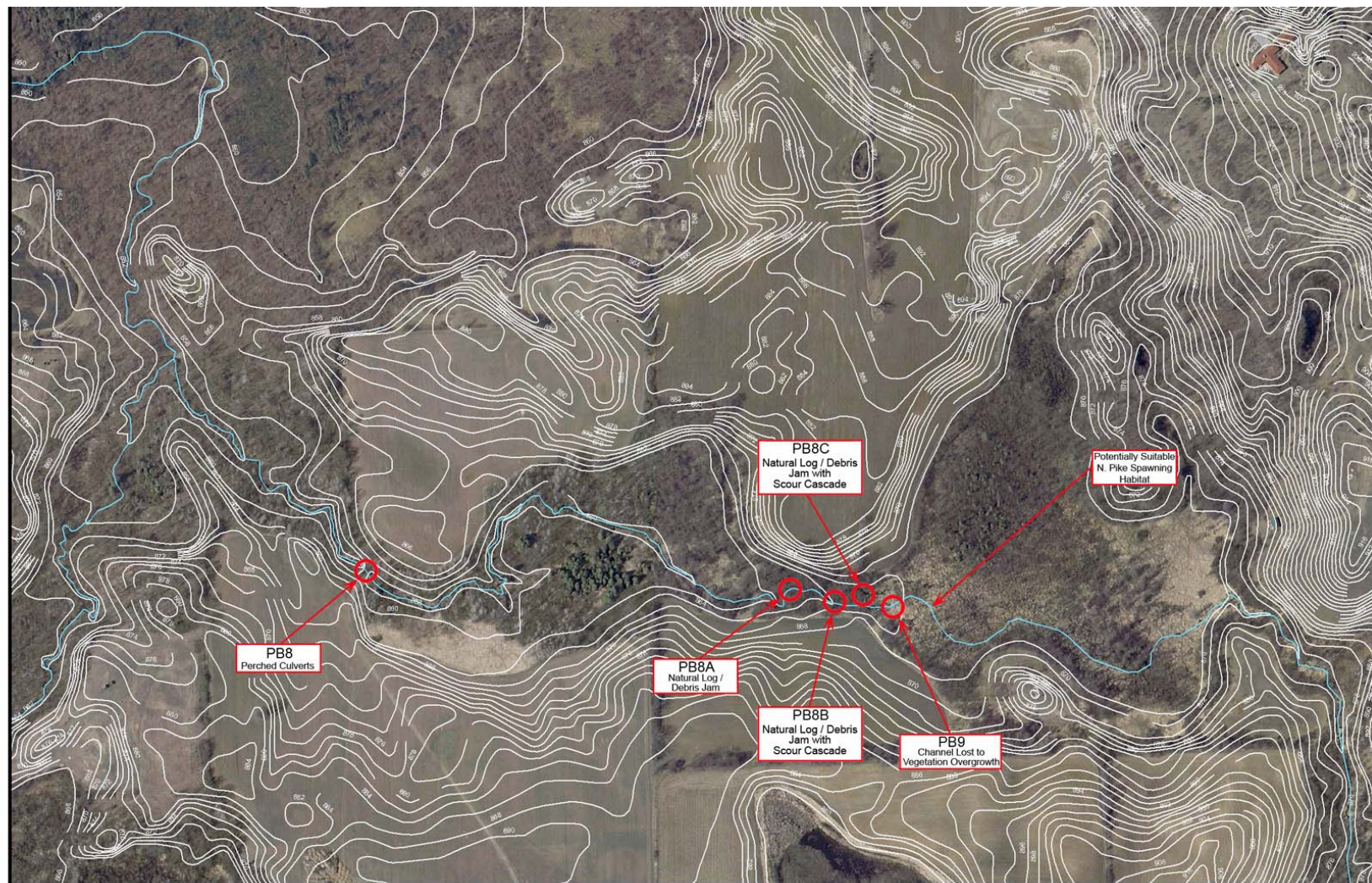


# Algae Deposition on Beach (Aug 22)





# FISH RECRUITMENT AND PRODUCTIVITY – CHARTER FISHING INDUSTRY & FISH IMPEDIMENTS





# LAKE MICHIGAN BLUFF EROSION WORKSHOP - 2001



The Ozaukee County Land and Water Conservation Department in partnership with the Wisconsin Coastal Management Program is sponsoring a public informational session on the dynamics of Lake Michigan Bluff Erosion. The goal of forum is to provide information on:

- The dynamics of bluff erosion
- Effect of lake level fluctuations
- Mitigation alternatives & setbacks
- Shore protection measures
- Answer commonly asked questions of coastal property owners

## Audience:

- Shoreline Landowners
- Public Officials
- Realtors
- Conservation Organizations
- Other Interested Individuals

## When and Where:

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11, 2001**

**6:30 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.**

**OZAUKEE COUNTY**

**ADMINISTRATION CENTER**

**AUDITORIUM**

**LOWER LEVEL ROOM 6**

**121 WEST MAIN STREET**

**PORT WASHINGTON**

**(SEE ACCOMPANYING MAP)**

## AGENDA

### Welcome:

**Andy Holschbach, Director**  
*Ozaukee County Land and Water Conservation Department*

### Presenters:

The presenters, members of the inter-agency Coastal Hazards Work Group, have been working on a consistent state and local approach to address coastal erosion concerns.

**Alberto Vargas, Wisconsin Coastal Management Program**

Coastal Hazards Program Coordinator at the Wisconsin Coastal Management Program since 1996. Vargas is the Chair of the Coastal Hazards Work Group, which joins state agencies and university representatives to develop a unified view on how to deal with natural hazards in the coastal areas in the State. Vargas has also developed and implemented strategies to continue the federal funding from NOAA – Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management aimed at natural hazards mitigation projects in Wisconsin.

**Phillip Keillor, Coastal Engineering Specialist, UW Sea Grant Institute**

Coastal Engineering Specialist for the University of Wisconsin Sea Grant Institute. Since 1975, Keillor has helped the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and Coastal Management Program (WCMP) assist coastal residents and communities in coping with natural hazards of the Great Lakes. Among his recent work Keillor is the author of the Coastal Processes Manual, 2nd edition, which was published in 1998, by UW Sea Grant. Keillor is a member of the Coastal Hazards Work Group since 1989.

**David Hart, GIS Specialist, UW Sea Grant and LICGF**

Senior Outreach Specialist with the Land Information and Computer Graphics Facility at the University of Wisconsin - Madison and Coastal GIS Specialist with the University of Wisconsin Sea Grant Institute. David received the Excellence in Coastal and Marine Graduate Study Award in the 1999 Walter B. Jones and NOAA Excellence Awards for Coastal and Ocean Resource Management for his work in coastal GIS applications in Wisconsin. He is a member of the Coastal Hazards Work Group since 1994.

**Alan Lulloff, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources**

Water Management Engineer with the Department of Natural Resources. In the past 27 years with DNR, he has worked in the wastewater, water supply, groundwater and floodplain management programs. Alan is the project manager of a DNR initiative to incorporate GIS technology with floodplain mapping. He is a member of the Coastal Hazards Work Group since 1995 and focuses specifically on developing methodology to map the Great Lakes coastal erosion hazards.





# LAKE MICHIGAN BLUFF EROSION WORKSHOP - 2002



## A G E N D A

6:30 p.m. Welcome and Introductions

Don Korte, Ph.D.  
Concordia University  
Associate Professor, Biology  
Chairman of the Science Dept.

Alberto Vargas, Ph.D.  
Wisconsin Dept of Administration  
WI Coastal Management Program  
Hazards Coordinator

Andy Holschbach  
Ozaukee County  
Land & Water Conservation Dept.  
Director - Land & Water  
Conservation Department

6:45 p.m. Permitting / Shoreland Zoning

Steve Narveson  
Ozaukee County  
Environmental Health Dept.  
Zoning Administrator/ Director -  
Environmental Health Dept.

6:55 p.m. Geology / Bluff Stability / Soils  
Hydrology / Drainage / BMPs

David M. Mickelson, Ph.D.  
University of Wisconsin - Madison  
Professor, Quaternary & Glacial  
Geology, Chair of Geological  
Engineering Program

7:25 p.m. Forest Management / Woodland Plantings

Jim Uhrinak  
Green Tree-Tree Care & Consulting  
Consulting Arborist / Restoration  
Ecologist

8:10 p.m. Prairie Plantings and Management

Mark O'Leary  
Applied Ecological Services, Inc.  
Taylor Creek Restoration Nurseries  
Senior Ecologist

8:55 p.m. Panel Discussion - Questions & Answers

All Speakers

9:30 p.m. Closing Remarks / Evaluations

Andy Holschbach  
Andrew Struck

## CONTRIBUTING PARTNERS



ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT



## SPONSORS



## LAKE MICHIGAN BLUFF EROSION AND STABILIZATION WORKSHOP



A ROLE FOR NATIVE VEGETATION  
IN REDUCING SHORELINE EROSION





# PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT – COASTAL EROSION

## PLAN DEVELOPMENT & OUTREACH MATERIALS



### LAKE MICHIGAN BLUFF EROSION AND STABILIZATION



A ROLE FOR NATIVE VEGETATION IN REDUCING SHORELINE EROSION

Ozaukee County

Land and Water Resource Management Plan



January 2006

WISCONSIN COASTAL  
MANAGEMENT PROGRAM



The preparation of this document was financed in part through the Wisconsin Coastal Management Program and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, of the Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, under the Coastal Zone Management Act, Grant #NA04NOS4190092

#### **Mission Statement:**

To promote sustainable and comprehensively planned growth in Ozaukee County through cost-effective technical and financial assistance, environmental education, and administration of county regulations that balance the concern for a robust local economy with: 1) the preservation, protection and enhancement of natural resources, 2) an increased awareness for environmental protection and regulation, and 3) the implementation of land and water conservation practices that provide the public with an improved quality of life in Ozaukee County.



# PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT – COASTAL EROSION

## GIS COASTAL VISUALIZATION WEBSITE



### A Changing Bluff Environment: Exploring 40 Years of Erosion

The coastline of Ozaukee County is a dynamic place. Living along the coast requires that we understand how erosion works so that we can avoid putting people and buildings in dangerous locations. Although the shape and location of the bluffs may look very stationary to our eyes, have a look at these two pairs of photos and you'll see just how much they change over time.

Although we can't see it very well over

#### Overview



### A Changing Bluff Environment: Exploring 40 Years of Erosion

The coastline of Ozaukee County is a dynamic place. Living along the coast requires that we understand how erosion works so that we can avoid putting people and buildings in dangerous locations. Although the shape and location of the bluffs may look very stationary to our eyes, have a look at these two pairs of photos and you'll see just how much they change over time.

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#### Overview





# CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE GREAT LAKES REGION – A PUBLIC DISCUSSION



www.seagrant.wisc.edu/ClimateChange

## Climate Change in the Great Lakes Region Starting a Public Discussion

UW Sea Grant Institute • Wisconsin Coastal Management Program • NOAA • Ozaukee County

Global warming is an undeniable reality, according to the latest (2007) report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), an international group of scientists convened by the United Nations. The evidence is clear and noticeable: a rising average global air temperature, widespread melting of glaciers and polar ice, and rising mean sea levels worldwide. The report sounds the alarm that the Earth is warming, and that major components of our climate system are already responding to that warming.

What will global warming mean for our region? The "Climate Change in the Great Lakes Region" seminar series provides a forum to begin this important discussion. Over the next several months, experts will speak at sites throughout Wisconsin to discuss what is known, what is predicted and what can be done to adapt. The series begins with a keynote presentation by Dr. Kevin Trenberth, a leading climate researcher from the National Center for Atmospheric Research and one of the authors of the current IPCC report. Subsequent talks will highlight how climate change could affect our property, water resources, fisheries, and public health.

### 2007 SEMINAR SERIES:

**MARCH 13**  
**THOMAS E. CROLEY II**  
Research Hydrologist, Great Lakes  
Environmental Research Laboratory  
**Great Lakes Climate Change  
Hydrologic Impact Assessment**  
Green Bay, Wisconsin

**KEN POTTER**  
Professor of Civil and Environmental  
Engineering, UW-Madison  
**Adapting Stormwater Management  
to Climate Change**  
Green Bay, Wisconsin

**APRIL 23**  
**KEVIN TRENBERTH**  
Senior Scientist, National Center for  
Atmospheric Research  
**KEYNOTE PRESENTATION:**  
**Global Warming Is Unequivocal**  
Morgridge Auditorium, Grainger Hall  
Madison, Wisconsin

**JUNE 7 & 11**  
**JOHN MAGNUSON**  
Emeritus Professor of Zoology and  
Limnology, UW-Madison  
**Climate Change and the  
Waters of Wisconsin**  
Superior and Milwaukee, Wisconsin

**AUGUST 8**  
**TIM ASPLUND**  
Water Resources Specialist, Wisconsin  
Department of Natural Resources  
**Climate Change and Wisconsin's  
Lakes and Groundwater**  
Ashland, Wisconsin

**AUGUST 15**  
**PHILIP KEILLOR**  
Coastal Engineering Specialist (Retired)  
UW-Madison Sea Grant Institute  
**How Climate Change May Affect  
Coastal Property Owners**  
Mequon, Wisconsin

**SEPTEMBER 12**  
**JONATHAN PATZ**  
Associate Professor of Environmental Studies  
and Population Health Sciences, UW-Madison  
**Climate Change and Public Health  
Concerns**  
Madison, Wisconsin

**SEPTEMBER 24**  
**BRIAN SHUTER**  
Research Scientist, Ontario Ministry of Natural  
Resources and Adjunct Professor of Zoology,  
University of Toronto  
**Climate Change and Fisheries**  
Cleveland, Wisconsin

## Climate Change in the Great Lakes Region Starting a Public Discussion

UW Sea Grant Institute • Wisconsin Coastal Management Program • NOAA • Ozaukee County

### Climate Change Coming to the Coasts of Wisconsin: How It May Affect Coastal Communities and Property Owners

**Philip Keillor**  
Coastal Engineering Specialist (Retired)  
UW-Madison Sea Grant Institute

**7 p.m. • Wednesday, August 15**  
Todd Wehr Auditorium  
Concordia University Wisconsin  
12800 North Lake Shore Drive

This presentation is directed principally to private landowners and public managers of coastal property along Wisconsin's Lake Michigan shoreline and secondarily to those who have some other professional or personal interest in protecting the state's natural coastal resources and the billions of dollars invested in coastal property.

Philip Keillor helped shoreline communities manage coastal hazards throughout his 30-year career as the UW-Madison Sea Grant Institute's Coastal Engineering Specialist. After retiring in 2004, he has taken a keen interest in climate change studies and how future scenarios could affect coastal property.

Keillor's presentation will cover: (1) evidence of climate change in Wisconsin, the Great Lakes Region, and beyond; (2) plausible scenarios of future climate change in the state and Great Lakes Region and uncertainties about these scenarios; (3) possibilities of climatic "surprises" and dangerous climate change; (4) expert opinion by others on how the stability of coastal slopes is expected to be affected by specific, possible climate changes, and (5) expected lake level responses to climate change.

Keillor will address the present situation of the coasts and will propose ways to increase the short-term and long-range resiliency of coastal lands and coastal investments to a changing climate. He will also invite the audience to offer their input.

Philip Keillor is a former coastal engineering specialist with the UW Sea Grant Institute. Throughout his career, he has helped Wisconsin's governments, coastal residents, and communities cope with natural hazards, harbor dock and dredging problems, and other coastal issues. In 2005 and 2006, Keillor worked on a NOAA-funded contract with the Association of State Floodplain Managers to apply its "No Adverse Impacts" floodplain management practice to addressing of coastal hazards on all U.S. coasts. He also led a Great Lakes-wide effort to develop new guidance on shore protection for coastal property owners. Funded by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the resulting 2003 publication, *Living on the Coast: Protecting Investments in Shore Property on the Great Lakes*, was the Corps' first publication on the subject in a quarter century. In 2004, the Sea Grant Extension Assembly awarded Keillor the William Z. Wick Visionary Career Leadership Award for his work on coastal hazards.